



ARIZONA

COMPREHENSIVE TOBACCO CONTROL

PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM

Of the 1,193,270 young people aged 17 and younger in Arizona, 98,516 will die prematurely from a tobacco-related disease if current tobacco-use patterns persist.

EVIDENCE THAT PREVENTION WORKS

Aggressive and comprehensive tobacco control programs in California, Florida, Massachusetts, and Oregon have produced substantial declines in rates of cigarette use. In California, home to one of the longest-running tobacco control programs, declines in rates of tobacco use have resulted in declines in rates of lung cancer and heart disease.

PROGRAM EXAMPLE

In 1994, Arizona passed the Tobacco Tax and Healthcare Act, which increased the cigarette tax from \$0.18 to \$0.58 and allocated 23% of the resulting revenues to tobacco-control activities. Since 1995, Arizona has used these tobacco-control funds (approximately \$30 million per year) to support the Tobacco Education and Prevention Program (TEPP), a comprehensive program to prevent and reduce tobacco use. TEPP, which also receives CDC support, currently funds about 22 local community organizations or agencies, including American Indian tribes. In addition, the program administers the statewide cessation helpline for both English and Spanish speakers. TEPP has also worked with the Coalition for Tobacco Free Arizona Policy Education Subcommittee and the Arizona Department of Education to develop a checklist to assess a school's progress toward adhering to the new tobacco-free schools guidelines and to help schools adopt their own policies. According to the 1999 Arizona Adult Tobacco Survey Report, released in 2000,

- The percentage of Arizona adults who reported smoking declined from 23.8% in 1996 to 18.8% in 1999, which represents a 21% decrease in adult smokers.
- Among 18- to 24-year-olds, tobacco use declined from 27.5% in 1996 to 21.0% in 1999, a 24% decrease.

IMPLICATIONS

The Arizona TEPP incorporates all nine components of a comprehensive tobacco control program as recommended in CDC's *Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs*. The decline in rates of tobacco use in Arizona is a striking example of what a comprehensive tobacco control program can accomplish when it is supported by adequate resources.